

## Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 COME-00 EB-08 CIAE-00 INR-07  
NSAE-00 L-03 DOTE-00 TRSE-00 OMB-01 SS-15 NSC-05 /060 W  
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R 261156Z JAN 77

FM AMEMBASSY OUAGADOUGOU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3129

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: BEXP, EAIR, UV

SUBJECT: PAN AFRICAN AIR INDUSTRIES

REF: OUAGADOUGOU 0214 (NOTAL)

1. COLONEL ROBERTSON OF PAAI RETURNED TO OUAGADOUGOU JANUARY 24, HAVING CONVINCED HIS STOCKHOLDERS TO MAKE A DOWN PAYMENT OF 200,000 POUNDS ON BELFAST AIRCRAFT. UK AUTHORITIES HAVE APPARENTLY AGREED TO A PHASED PAYMENT PLAN. CATCH IS THAT, UNLESS PAAI ANE GOUV AGREE ON FINANCING OF PAAI PROJECT (THOROUGH BADEA OR OTHER) BY FEBRUARY 5, STOCKHOLDERS WILL TAKE CONTROL OF AIRCRAFT, PROBABLY SELL THEM AT A HANDSOME PROFIT, AND TERMINATE THEIR PARTICIPATION IN PAAI PROJECT IN UPPER VOLTA.

2. IN LAST EFFORT TO SAVE PAAI PROJECT, I ARRANGED MEETING BETWEEN FINANCE MINISTER KALMOGO AND COLONEL ROBERTSON EVENING OF JANUARY 25. ALSO PRESENT DURING DISCUSSION WERE FORMER IMF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR ANTOINE YAMEOGO AND ANOTHER OFFICIAL OF FINANCE MINISTRY. KALMOGO SAID HE HAD HAD "ENOUGH" OF IMPOSSIBLE DEADLINES SET BY PAAI AND HAD DECIDED TO

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SUBMIT THE PROJECT ON AN URGENT BASIS TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS JANUARY 26 FOR A "YES OR NO" ANSWER. HE SAID HE WOULD MAKE A COMPLETE AND IMPARTIAL PRESENTATION AND WOULD "FORCE" ENTIRE GOVERNMENT, INCLUDING PRESIDENT, TO FACE ITS RESPONSIBILITIES. DURING COURSE OF ENSUING CONVERSATION, IT BECAME CLEAR THAT KALMOGO, HAVING HAD OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE THOROUGH STUDY OF PAAI

PROJECT, IS BASICALLY IN FAVOR OF IT, ALTHOUGH HE IS ANNOYED BY PAAI'S TACTICS WHICH, HE SAID, VERGED ON INFRINGEMENT OF UPPER VOLTA'S SOVEREIGNTY. BY THE END OF THE MEETING, KALMOGO HAD MELLOWED CONSIDERABLY AND, IN SPITE OF LANGUAGE DIFFICULTY, HE SEEMED TO HAVE DEVELOPED A VERY POSITIVE RAPPORT WITH ROBERTSON. AT THE END KALMOGO VOLUNTEERED NEW STRATEGY BY WHICH HE WOULD SUBMIT PROJECT TO COUNCIL OF MINISTERS ON JANUARY 26 BUT WOULD NOT ASK FOR "YES OR NO" ANSWER UNTIL NEXT COUNCIL MEETING FEBRUARY 2. MEANWHILE, ROBERTSON WILL BE FREE TO BRIEF EACH MINISTER INDIVIDUALLY.

3. WE HAVE HEARD SINCE THEN THAT AFTER LEAVING US, KALMOGO WENT STRAIGHT TO THE PRESIDENCY WHERE A LIVELY DISCUSSION TOOK PLACE ON PAAI PROJECT BETWEEN PRESIDENT AND SEVERAL MINISTERS. PRESIDENT, KALMOGO AND FOREIGN MINISTER REPORTEDLY SPOKE FAVORABLY OF PAAI PROJECT BUT MINISTER OF TRANSPORT OUEDRAOGO, WHO HAD PREVIOUSLY SUPPORTED THE PROJECT, ALLEGEDLY ARGUED THAT THE PROJECT WOULD ANTOGONIZE THE FRENCH. MEANWHILE, ACCORDING TO ROBERTSON, THE VOLTAN DEFENSE ESTABLISHMETN IS FINALLY SHOWING SOME INTEREST IN THE BELFAST AIRCRAFT AND IN THE MILITARY USE THAT COULD BE MADE OF THEM IF THEY WERE BASED IN UPPER VOLTA.  
GRAHAM

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## Message Attributes

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